

The New Zealand
Beekeeper



1985

Winter

The New Zealand BeeKeeper

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED

CIRCULATION 1,450

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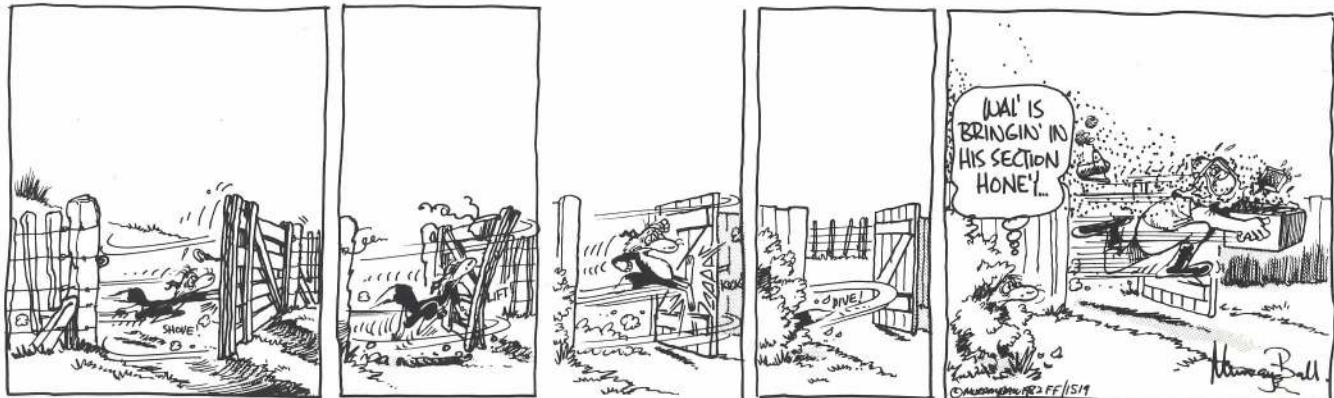
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FOOTROT FLATS

by MURRAY BALL



NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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Ian Berry, P.O. Box 16, Havelock North. Phone 775-400 and 777-300 (business) and 778-772 (home).

Vice-President:

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Executive:

Keith M. Herron, Greenvale Apiaries, No. 5 R.D., Gore.

Gavin White, Hamama Road, Takaka, R.D. 1.

Tony Lorimer, 353 Cobham Drive, Hillcrest, Hamilton. Phone 69-625 or 66-123. A/hrs 63-002.

Dudley Ward, Kintail Honey Ltd, 97 Guy Street, Dannevirke. Phone DV-8301.

Executive Secretary:

Steuart Goodman, Dalmuir House, The Terrace, P.O. Box 4048, Wellington. Phone 728-102.

Hon. Librarian:

John Heineman, Box 112, Milton, Otago. Phone 4613 (home), 4614 (business).

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THE TORTOISE OR THE HARE?

The value of the Goods and Services' Tax, due to be introduced next April, is very much an unknown quantity. It has its advocates, both for and against, but the vast majority of us may be forgiven for acting like the Man from Missouri: "We gotta be shown".

A big question is how much will the administration of the tax cost? Are we to change one system of tax for something no better but which will cost more to collect?

The Government assures us that the percentage absorbed by administration will not be high, and that the net proceeds from the tax will make a considerable difference to the personal income tax paid by those on middle and lower incomes.

If this is so then it will make a considerable difference to the incomes of beekeepers, few of whom may be considered wealthy.

However, theory does not translate readily into fact. Many a good intention has foundered on the rocks of practice.

In theory the percentage of the tax absorbed by administration should not be great. Certainly it should not be if, by a wave a wand, the extra experienced staff required by the Inland Revenue could be recruited.

But that the Department will find anything like enough trained people in the next few months is unlikely. What is more likely is that it will have to recruit from our pool of unemployed and begin training from scratch. And with hundreds of thousands of extra returns to process who will be left to do the training?

There are numerous precedents for such rapid programmes of expansion and training. However, these have usually taken place under extreme stress, such as war, when money and the human factor take second place to that of survival. To implement such an operation within our present lifestyle would plainly be unacceptable and impracticable.

The public service can, and does, work efficiently in most fields. At times it can be more efficient than private enterprise. However, under peacetime conditions it cannot possibly be expected to implement such a mammoth operation without hiccups in so short a time.

By April 1 we may find there are still many bugs to be ironed out of the system.

Could it be that the change might be more effective if the introduction of the tax was delayed for further planning and the training of the staff involved?

A further point is the extra work — and consequently expense — the tax will create for small businessmen. It must add to their costs and costs must be passed on. How much will need to be passed on to the consumer is

difficult to guess, but it may well mean that a tax of, say, 10% becomes an increase of 12% on the retail price.

Another point is that most small businessmen are not accountants. They work so far through their accounts then pass the semi-processed figures on to a professional to polish. It might be reasonable to assume that the number of accountants in present practice is enough to meet current demands. If the volume of work suddenly increases will the profession be able to handle it?

The idea of indirect tax is good. Few people would deny that. It gives us all a greater say in the control of our personal incomes. But if the change is made too rapidly the advantages could be lost.

Michael Burgess,
Editor

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To the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am appalled and infuriated to read your editorial in the Autumn Beekeeper. To bring politics into the magazine is out of order, in my opinion, but since you have done so, I will take up what you have stated.

The stance New Zealand has taken over the nuclear issue has invited support from all over the world, including the US, where a consumer organisation has been set up to encourage the purchase of NZ products. The African countries are delighted, as Mr Lange's visit is proving. There is absolutely no doubt that in the short and long terms we will win more friends than we lose. To support or accept the nuclear arms race until the mythical, mutually-verifiable, arms control situation is reached is dangerous dreaming. Immediate action is what is needed, and that is what this country is doing. Over 65% of the population lives in nuclear-free zones in this country and the Government's action is a logical and ethical extension of this.

When the US beliefs compel the planting or passage of the lethal nuclear weapons in or through NZ I can say that those beliefs are imposing on us, and to sell out our principles of sovereignty for the sake of dollars and trade is prostitution, no less. No war, or preparation for war can morally be supported, and to do so for the sake of trade is to reach the depths of materialistic crassness.

In the meantime I'm sure Uncle Sam will be using his CIA goons to do all they can to destabilise the Lange government. Shades of the sacking of Gough Whitlam in Australia back in 1975! CIA involvement was proven there, when Whitlam challenged the US Military Intelligence Centre at Pine Gap, among other things.

I add that New Zealand's action is receiving considerable media coverage overseas, and will no doubt influence to a presently-unknown degree the turn of events regarding nuclear weapons.

G.P. Elwell-Sutton

One other letter was received on the above subject but it was unsigned. Nom de plumes may be used for publication, but all letters must be signed and must include the writer's full address.

Editor.

Dear Sir,

Any beekeeper wishing to travel to Jamaica, West Indies, would find a convenient place to stay at my place, free of charge. I've been a beekeeper for some twelve years and hope to visit your country.

Doug Johnson
Bee Officer
Two Pelicans
Cave P.O.
Westmoreland
Jamaica
West Indies

Dear Sir,

As a struggling queen breeder, I recently decided I would have to raise some finance in order to solidify our business. To this end I asked a well-known member of the beekeeping hierarchy to supply a testimonial to my "Bones Fidos". The enclosed is a copy of his reply. I wonder if you, or anyone else, can explain why my loan application was turned down, when there are far more competent beekeepers around who get loans and don't really need them.

Don Gibbons

To Whom it may concern

As a semi-retired but still hard-slogging apiculturist from the dismal Southern part of the Land of the Big Black Cloud I wish to testify to the inability of that mug Don Gibbons who calls himself a queen bee breeder but really does not know the difference between an ovary and a mandible or anything about the time of life when his drones can get "it" up. This, of course is the reason why at least 90% of his queens are either poorly-mated or absolute duds.

The foregoing should be adequate to assure any bank manager that the product turned out by this loan applicant is, to say it mildly, well below par.

As for service, well, absolutely dreadful. Consignments arrive always far too early or much too late. Cages are leaking resulting in very upset P.O. lasses and time wasted in passifying postmasters. All this amounts to serious disruptions of our own programme and management so that we are very close to bankruptcy. It is of course the Rural Bank which will get short change in the finish.

We have undoubtedly proof that aforementioned b..... is overcharging most of the time and there are also serious suspicions in regard to giving short weight.

I am sorry, but we must sound a most sincere warning:

Don't get involved with the Wicked Wizzard of Waipu if you want to hang on to your money, for your investment would be in horses, women, beer, porno, gambling and above all BEES.

Fore Warned is Fore Armed

Dear Sir,

At the 129th Timber Preservation Authority Meeting held recently in Wellington, it was resolved that Commodity Specification C9 for sawn timbers for use in beehive construction, be deleted from the forthcoming reprint of the TPA Specifications.

It is anticipated that the reprint of the Specifications will be ready for distribution June/July 1985.

Mrs D Wall
Acting Secretary

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The President's Report



President Ian Berry NBA

One of the highlights of being President of the NBA is the opportunity it gives to visit branches, meet members, and enjoy their hospitality. Judging by the warmth of the reception given to me on my visit to Greymouth, and the efficiency with which the arrangements, are being made for our Annual Conference and the MAF Industry Planning Workshop, we can look forward to a well-run and enjoyable session in July.

With today's rising costs it is pleasing to note the West Coast Branch has been able to hold the cost of the social evening to the same as last year and make a reduction of \$9.00 per head in registration costs. It is hoped the efforts of the Branch are rewarded by a record attendance.

The Tuesday before Conference is being organised by the MAF and is not being run as a "Seminar" this year but as an "Industry Planning Workshop". Dr Dennis Anderson, who will be taking up his appointment at the DSIR Mt. Albert, early in May, will be one of the speakers and it will give members an opportunity to meet him.

Our Executive meeting held in Auckland on 12-14 March 1985 proved a very busy one. We started work at 8.30am on the Tuesday and worked through until 10.00pm. Apart from a further half hour on Thursday morning we covered our normal agenda during the first day. Some of the main points of interest that came out of our regular meeting were:

The Appointment of Dr Dennis Anderson: The meeting approved the funding of the second year's salary and some expenses, totalling up to \$25,000. The first year is being funded by the DSIR. We expect the NBA's contribution will come from Trust Funds.

The Annual Report for year ended 31 December 1984 was finalised at our meeting and has since been despatched to all hive levy payers with spare copies to branch secretaries for other members who may wish to

have one. Our apologies for the printing error which mis-spelt Mr Bill Rodie's name and for the missing front page which has now been posted.

Trust Funds: There were a number of applications for money from the Trust Funds. These were considered in committee and the applications, together with the Executives' recommendations, have been forwarded to the Trustees for their consideration.

Apiary Advisory Committee: Mr Tony Lorimer reported on the meeting held on 14 Feb. 1985 which he attended as deputy for his father. Owing to Mr. Dudley Lorimer's resignation from the Committee after long years of valuable service, it was decided to recommend to Chairman Graeme Walton that Tony be asked to join the Committee.

Honey Prices: It was decided to recommend to members that they make some increase in their prices to help cover increasing costs. The lighter honey crop than earlier expected, improved prospects on the export market (helped by devaluation), and discussions with the NZ Honey Packers' Association were all considered before arriving at this recommendation.

The 1KG Pack of Honey: We have been asking for some time that all restrictions which limit the weights at which honey can be packed be removed. After our meeting a further letter was sent, and a reply back from Mr. Eddie Isbey, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Labour, dated 29 April 1985, makes the following points:

1. The Weights and Measures Act and Regulations are at present the subject of a major review and our request to have all reference to honey deleted will be considered at the appropriate time.
2. In the meantime however he proposes to instruct his Department to include in the First Schedule of the Metrication (Retail Trading) Regulations 1978, the 1kg size. He says this will allow those beekeepers who wish to use this size to do so.
3. He points out however that pursuant to Section 39(a) of the Weights and Measures Act, the provision to pack honey in this size will not come into force until six months after notification of the change to the schedule appears in the New Zealand Gazette.

Honey Promotion: It was decided to order 5,000 bumper stickers. Samples and prices will be sent to branches as soon as they are available. It was also decided that quotes be obtained for ballpoint pens. As we get more of these promotion materials available for members it is becoming apparent that it will be necessary to store and distribute these materials from somewhere other than our Wellington office which is on the 11th floor of Dalmuir House on the Terrace. I have spoken to one member already who is keen to do the job for us, but we will need to work out the details at Conference time.

Murray Reid's Report: As usual this covered a wide

range of important subjects including: Agriculture Quarantine Manual — Product Inspection Changes: Honey — Export of Bees and Bee Products to Australia — Pollination Directory for World Crops: IBRA — Hive Levy Amendment Act 1984 — Poisonous Plants and Horticulture in NZ — Canadian Response to the Trachael Mite — Family Care — Bibliography: NZ Apiculture — New Zealand Queen Bees to UK — Pesticide Poster — Shimanukis Report on Queen Production — Computer Modelling — Article on NZ Beekeeping for American Magazines.

On our second day in Auckland we spent a full day with the Agriculture Quarantine Service officers. This meeting was arranged after the visit to our Executive Meeting in December by Julian Brown, the Director of the Agriculture Quarantine Service, and we are indebted to the AQS for turning on such an informative interesting and enjoyable day for us. Firstly we were met by Nick Emery, Supervising AQ Officer, Auckland, who took us on a tour of their Auckland Office, the Auckland Container Port, and the Post Office. He explained the various systems and procedures as we went along. We were then shown through the Auckland Fumigation Station by John Holton, Senior AQO, Auckland. Methyl Bromide is the main fumigant used here.

After lunch we travelled out to the Auckland International Airport where we were met by John Bongiovanni, SAQO, Auckland. Here we were shown the AQ procedures at the Airport for both imports and exports and a display of some articles which had been taken from passengers entering New Zealand. Included in these was a large plastic coke bottle filled with liquid honey from South America, confiscated the previous night.

Our next stop was the Airport Fumigation Station. Here we were shown around by Ross Sheppard SAQO and we were most impressed by the new highly-sophisticated fumigation equipment. Late in the afternoon we were welcomed to a joint meeting of the NBA and the AQO's by Julian Brown and we had useful discussions on how best the NBA could assist the Agriculture Quarantine Service protect our industry from illegal imports of bees, bee products, and used bee equipment. We were also able to meet the four Regional AQ officers. They were: Travis Flint, Auckland, Brian Rose, Wellington, Charlie Cooper, Christchurch, and Barry Short, Dunedin. Also at the meeting were Assistant RAQO, Auckland, Neil Hyde, and Supervising AQO (Training), Auckland, John Hager.

After the meeting we were invited to a social get-together and given the opportunity to meet some other senior people from around the airport.

Altogether a day during which we learnt a lot and most importantly it gave us the opportunity to meet so many of the senior AQ Officers. Our special thanks to Julian Brown and his team for making it all possible. Our thanks also to Colin Rope who spent the day with us and to Murray Reid who joined us after lunch.

After our evening meal we had an informal meeting with the Auckland Branch. This enabled executive members to meet some of the Auckland members who don't normally get to Conference and a pleasant evening was spent discussing many aspects of beekeeping. The

meeting was held as part of the Executives' continuing policy of keeping in touch with branch members whenever the opportunity arises.

On our third day we drove to the DSIR, Mt Albert, where we were met by Dr Oliver Sutherland who discussed with us the work done by the DSIR, and later Dr Paul Scotty showed us some of the sophisticated equipment in use at Mt Albert and also discussed the appointment of Dr Denis Anderson.

Dr Scotty has high hopes that with this appointment, together with the experts and equipment available to back up Dr Anderson's work, NZ will be able to establish for itself a place on the world scene in the area of bee-disease research. Unfortunately because he was away on other duties, we were unable to meet Dr John Longworth, Director of the DSIR Entomology Division, but we look forward to meeting him in the future.

After morning tea, kindly provided by the DSIR, we moved to the Lilypak Factory at Henderson to look at honey packaging. We were firstly taken on a tour of this huge factory which turns out all types of plastic and paper cups. The first impression gained was that although they produce a reasonably high percentage of the 500g and 900g honey pots used in New Zealand, and have a potential to turn out a million pots per day, the honey packaging they produce must be a very small percentage of their total throughput. The machinery used for producing the waxed paper honey cartons, so popular with honey consumers for so many years, is apparently approaching the end of its economic life. The question of what changes should be made to update honey packaging was discussed at some length at a meeting between the NBA and the management of Lilypak.

When we arrived back at the hotel we had time for a further 30 minutes of meeting only, which we held while eating lunch, before departing for the airport and our flights home.

I think I could speak for the executive when I say although it had been a very busy three days we returned home with a feeling of satisfaction that the extra effort of holding our March meeting in Auckland had proved very worthwhile, and that we have greatly improved our knowledge in several areas vital to our industry.

Looking forward to meeting many of you at Conference.

Ian Berry
President



*You've heard of the editor, Mike Burgess
Now bits for this mag's what he urges
So send stuff galore
He's bound to want more
Facts, photos, fun poems, not dirges.*

Don Gibbons.

The objects of the NBA include "to initiate, adopt and pursue policies designed to further in any way the interests and well being of those engaged in the beekeeping industry of NZ." Taking this clause literally and grabbing at the words 'well being' I just wonder how this can be applied to some developments we've seen over the years.

We've seen the advent of kiwi fruit orcharding and other forms of horticulture and agriculture create a healthy competitiveness in beekeeping, well, for some. For others, who don't play ball, they don't even need team mates. I'm talking about the people who indulge in those acts of the despicable kind. We've all heard of them. And we'll hear more as life midway gets tougher. Let's not be puritanical. Price hikes, high interest rates, threatening GST's all help to make the quick quid on the side all that much more attractive. If making it by underpricing with hives borrowed on the "never-return" basis for pollination duties, then it is the honest guy who gets wrongly penalised for being offside. The barbarian in this case gets the goal for trying, because his is not a venture made to keep him and his in a manner to which they should be accustomed. Put simply, the misdemeanours of the rogue user of bees, not only include an offence punishable by law i.e. theft, but also the robbing of someone's income, however small a percentage. And when that small percentage is bread and butter, such actions are nasty.

If this is not enough to reduce your molars to stumps along come those who lack the entrepreneurial grace of a fish. Admittedly they don't exactly do anything illegal as such, its just that their actions add to industrial depression. Of these, there are two categories. Firstly, the 'unconscious subjectors' are those who will stand by their diseased and dying hives wailing 'but we love honey'. Then there are the 'wasps on the landing board' who will hopefully feel the blunt end of the code of ethics, if and when it gets finalised. To hear these people blurting out those plaintive excuses will bring a lump to your throat and give your knuckles a bad case of the whites . . . meanwhile back in the yard things go on, going lift in the night.

So what's the solution? Pollinators could always pay the orchardist for the privilege. Point taken, but would it solve the crime problem? Well, there's always the suggestion that we supply all growers with a list of levy payers!

Yes, I know, that's not really very democratic or fair. Right then, so do we just count to ten, plug on, and accept that these clandestine little nuances are yet another sign of the times.? We shouldn't. In an industry worth its weight in the overseas earnings it helps to gain for two major primary industries, not to mention its own contributions, there should be no compromise and certainly no indulgence of the guilty. Nor can we sweep the facts under the worn carpet, and hope that these grubby activities will end. Sure, things may and probably will ease up: who's to say that pollination services, in particular, will not endure, well, not at least on present

day levels. Time will tell but in the meantime what is the plan of action for those on the receiving end? Any ideas? Hold on, while you're thinking that one out. Pr'haps we had better have a show of hands for those willing to donate a leg or two. Way things are going, there might be quite a few of us without one to stand on.

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MAMMOTH EXPORT CONSIGNMENT OF BEES

An order for over 3,500 one kg packages of bees, including queens, has been successfully airfreighted to Canada by three New Zealand apiaries.

Loaded on eight Air New Zealand pallets, they were carried on eight separate Air New Zealand flights between 8 April and 5 May 1985. In all some 32 million bees.

The order, negotiated between Canadian importer John Craighead and Arataki Honey's Russell Berry, was from Arataki Honey, Haines Bee Breeders, and Whiteline Queens. "A difficult and complex operation", says Russell Berry who, together with John Craighead, masterminded the exercise in co-operation with MAF and Air New Zealand.

"That the bees arrived healthy was due to considerable research and great attention to detail by all parties concerned."

For example, not only did he and John Craighead discuss the problem in depth with MAF and Air New Zealand, but they even consulted

Boeing about the suitability of the 747 and studied a 747 manual.

To put bees in artificial surroundings where they are unable to control the temperature requires a precise knowledge of bees' reaction to temperature and airflow. Each pallet of bees carried a temperature sensor which measured the temperature both inside and outside the pallet.

The bees were not only constantly checked until take-off by Russell at this end but they were checked by a representative of John Craighead at Honolulu and by John Craighead himself at Los Angeles because even a slight change in temperature could have killed the bees.

At Los Angeles the bees were placed in a cool store before transfer by an Air Canada flight to Toronto. Some were shipped a further 1,600km by road to the Maritime Provinces.

"Every possible contingency was considered beforehand", Russell says. "From the housing of the bees in coolstores at Air New Zealand's Auckland cargo terminal before flight,

to safety.

"That the bees arrived in good order gives no cause for complacency though", he continued. "We have yet to learn how the bees will behave in their new environment, and indeed we have a great deal yet to learn about the mechanics and logistics of air freighting such quantities of bees over long distances."

Considerable interest has been shown by some beekeepers but, Russell warns, such a project should not be taken lightly. One mistake by a single beekeeper could ruin the trade. Many may also not appreciate the amount of work and the cost involved in such an exercise.

He himself put in a good two months' work to see the consignment off, frequently to four and five in the morning, and he travelled more than 8,000kms by car and truck. John Craighead certainly put in more time. The cost was such that this consignment is unlikely to be profitable. However, the lessons learned may well lead to future profits.

The Canadians bought the packages of bees because of the appearance of honey bee tracheal mite in some states of the USA, from where they normally buy their bees. They chose New Zealand stock because our apiaries are relatively disease-free.

If this consignment is successful further orders may be in train.



Air New Zealand's international cargo rep. Cliff Stocks holds a package of bees labelled Whiteline Italian Queens.

Seminar

The DSIR has organised a day seminar on "International Contracts for Grasslands Technology" to be held in Auckland on 5 July, 1985.

New Zealand has developed a world-wide reputation for a diverse range of technologies applicable to grassland projects. Potential exists to tap our resources or technical and commercial expertise to capture international contracts.

This seminar is aimed at companies and organisations working in grassland technologies, and related support areas such as packaging, processing, marketing, information, finance, and export consultancy.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE OR HEALTHY HIVES

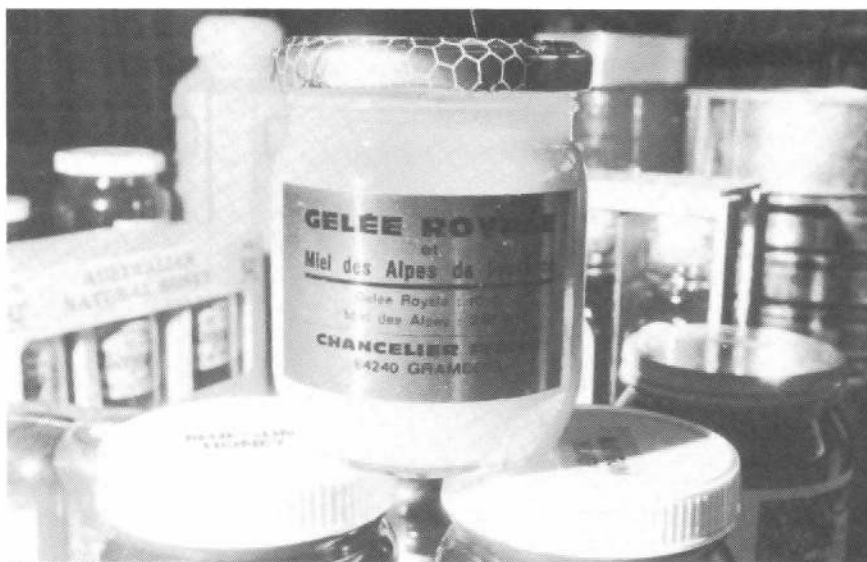
From The Agriculture Quarantine Service

Beekeeping is based on co-operation. It starts with the bees in the hive and then continues with the beekeeper and the hives. That it doesn't stop there is shown by recent discussions between the Executive of the National Beekeepers Association and the Agriculture Quarantine Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

As with all truly co-operative ventures both parties have benefitted and will continue to do so. Keeping NZ free from exotic bee diseases and parasites is of prime importance to both the AQS and the NBA. This co-operative approach will go a long way to ensuring that NZ's fortunate position is maintained. With both parties working together, doing what each does best, this can be achieved efficiently and effectively.

The Agriculture Quarantine Service is very much aware that NZ is fortunate in being free from pests and diseases that plague producers in other parts of the world. This applies to beekeeping just as much as it does to dairy farming or horticulture. If we are to take full advantage of our seasonal difference with the northern hemisphere it is essential that production and access to markets is not limited by new and exotic pests and diseases becoming established. In part our fortunate position is maintained by NZ's geographical isolation. Distance is a barrier preventing natural introductions from migrating wild populations. However in the age of jet travel and containerised imports of a wide range of goods, our danger lies in introductions by Man. The purpose of the AQS is to prevent this happening. Agriculture quarantine officers are stationed throughout the country wherever passengers or cargo arrive from overseas.

All passengers arriving in NZ fill out a declaration which the agriculture quarantine officer uses to decide what further action to take. Similarly all cargo manifests are checked and goods of Agriculture Quarantine sig-

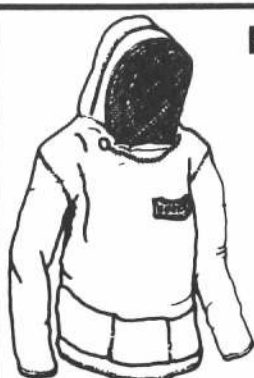


A typical range of confiscated bee products.

nificance are noted for later inspection. In addition aircraft and ships' garbage is removed and incinerated. Garbage from overseas aircraft and ships poses a very real risk of introducing pests and diseases of all kinds. At the Post Office, customs staff put aside packets and parcels for inspection by agriculture quarantine officers. In these ways agriculture quarantine officers are alert to everything that enters the country and are ready to inspect, treat, or take whatever

action is required.

Training of agriculture quarantine officers is important to ensure that the Agriculture Quarantine Service is effective in doing what it can to prevent the entry of unwanted pests and diseases. Officers are recruited from people with backgrounds that give them useful knowledge and skills and, more importantly, an appreciation of how important it is to prevent exotic pests and diseases from be-



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Mr B. Rawnsley, Dept. B. J. Sherriff N.Z.B., Happy Valley Apiaries, Mill Road R.D., Manurewa.

coming established. After training, it is this understanding that keeps agriculture quarantine officers alert to the ever-present possibility of exotic pests and diseases being introduced. Training starts with familiarisation with the operations and activities of the Agriculture Quarantine Service and continues for a year of "on job" and "off job" training. The "on job" training consists of working with experienced officers who show trainees the practical aspect of what is learned in "off job" training. The "off job" training is carried out by officers with the necessary technical knowledge and skills to tutor in specialised subjects. The technical subjects covered in this first year are: Animal Health, Botany, Plant Pathology, and Entomology. The purpose of this training is not to make scientists capable of diagnosing or identifying plants, insects, or disease, but to enable agriculture quarantine officers to recognise potential problems. When inspecting goods, an agriculture quarantine officer must be able

to assess if and how they present a risk. Specialist scientific advice is available where items require a more informed technical assessment. Training does not stop at the end of the first year, it is a continuing process. The first year's training gives the agriculture quarantine officer the basic knowledge and skills to carry out the job of preventing the entry of undesirable plants, insects, animals, pests, and diseases.

But what is it the agriculture quarantine officer is looking for and how are the risks identified? The threat of introducing something unwanted comes from two areas. Firstly travellers from overseas can introduce something in total ignorance of the possible consequences. For example, a pot of honey bought overseas where bee diseases, not in New Zealand, exist. If it came from an infected hive, that single pot of honey could infect many hives before it is eaten. Secondly, people within the industry itself are a risk — not that anyone would deliberately introduce a disease. An enthusiastic hobbyist or businessman looking for greater profitability or production could inadvertently introduce a disease by importing queens. A migrating beekeeper could introduce disease by bringing used equipment to NZ. These hypothetical situations can very easily happen in reality and show how important it is to maintain restrictions on the importation of bees, bee products, and hive equipment.

Statutory controls however are

not the whole answer to keeping bee diseases and parasites from the country. Both the Agriculture Quarantine Service and the Beekeeping Industry must be prepared to educate, and publicise the risks involved.

A look at bee-related items discovered by the AQS will highlight the problem and at the same time illustrate how effective the Agriculture Quarantine Service is.

In January and February of 1985 the Agriculture Service intercepted: 424 consignments of honey; 6 consignments of jelly; 4 consignments of pollen; 4 consignments of beeswax; 1 consignment of used beekeeping equipment; 7 consignments of products containing honey.

These figures, for just two months, show that a very real risk exists. The honey alone came from 22 different countries! Some, if not most, would have diseases not present in New Zealand. While the Agriculture Quarantine Service is doing an effective job it would be a brave person indeed who claimed that every jar of honey will be intercepted. People are people and someone is bound to try to beat the system, or a mistake will be made. Enough people trying to beat the system or enough mistakes and eventually a disease will establish itself. So where does that lead us? It leads us back to where we started — co-operation. With co-operation we can do more to teach people of the risks and consequences. By gaining their co-operation we can do more to maintain New Zealand's healthy hives.

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An MAF warning notice.



FROM THE COLONIES

MARLBOROUGH

An excellent season from most of this area. It has set up the newer beekeepers with a good supply of drawn combs. The good honey flow appears to be the result of plenty of rain in December and January with plenty of warmth and low stocking rates.

The autumn was dry until mid-April. We are fortunate to have almost no wasps to hinder the small autumn flows being collected. Already the Spanish Heath is beginning to flower.

The area around Blenheim continues to be developed for horticulture, reducing its appeal as a beekeeping area. It is now becoming obvious that spray damage to hives is very difficult to trace to the source, or sources, so as beekeepers move out, the need to pay for pollinating hives increases. We are in the process of forming a Pollination Association as a separate entity to the Beekeepers' Club. So perhaps in the future the spray damage to hives will be kept to a minimum.

James Jenkins

OTAGO

A wonderful autumn lies behind us with many fine warm days with little or no wind. Conditions in general are very dry and in some areas of the province the situation from the farmer's point of view is very serious. Hay and silage is being fed out, turnips are as big as match boxes and choumoulier less than a foot high and withered. Not good at all and one wonders how the pasture in those places will every recover. Rainfall in coastal Otago has been about one third of the average.

It is amazing that we still removed a box or more of surplus honey from hives in these dry parts. Travelling inland one notices a belt which looks much greener. Unusual.

Most of the extracting is now behind us and wintering down will have to be completed shortly.

The Annual Meeting was duly held. Our new president is Ken Trevathan from Lawrence while John Foote was re-elected secretary.

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Beekeepers from the Gore District got together a couple of weeks ago at Telford Farm Training Institute to say farewell to Cliff van Eaton and his wife Bonny. Cliff is leaving us to take up the position of Advisory Officer at Whangarei. Well, Northlanders, here are our congratulations. You are getting a bloke right off the top shelf.

At the same time we welcomed Clive and Mrs Vardy. It is great to see the Gore District supplied with an officer without delay this time. We all hope that Clive will experience better seasons, honey wise, than has been the case during the years that Cliff has been with us. May be a change of Ap. Adv. Officer will help!

John Heineman.

NORTHLAND

As in most other areas, the honey crop fizzled ending with a near average season. Autumn has seen some heavy falls of rain with totals being above average.

We had our Field Weekend at the Lily Pond Motor Camp, just out of Paihia, in February. The break-away was most welcome and the Branch thanks all the visitors who travelled up to join us. Our thanks to Murray Reid and Tony Lorimer for their contributions. A BBQ was enjoyed by all on the Saturday evening, despite an untimely shower.

The Branch welcomes Cliff van Eaton as our new Apicultural Advisory Officer and we all look forward to working with him in the future.

Pat Gavin

HAWKES BAY

With one to two tons per 100 hives being our average the news from Hawke's Bay is not the best. This makes it three poor seasons in a row due to drought. With some hives not providing enough winter stores our feed-honey supplies are also below average. That will mean buying extra sugar for spring feeding. Some of our members will have a struggle to get through the coming year.

Our Branch now holds meetings at the Taradale Community College on the third Tuesday of each month. The last meeting was our AGM with a record 28 members present. We now have guest speakers and an increasing attendance.

The recent heavy rain on the Napier-Taupo road washed away two bridges that will not be replaced. It has left one of our members with bee yards stranded across the river. However, we are organising a Branch work day to re-locate the apiaries.

John Walker

WESTLAND

Late summer and autumn have certainly made up for the poor weather of December and January. Very settled warm weather, with almost no rain, saw many people on the Coast with a water shortage. Hokitika and Westport both restricted town supplies, and many rural

areas had to buy water for household use. To cap it all, the area from Fox Glacier to Haast was placed under a total Forest Service fire ban ... it was so dry! Surely this must be the first time ever!

The bees revelled in the sunshine, picking up a little honey from late flowering sources, and those beekeepers, whose hives were within flying distance of honey dew, probably have had the best year for honey dew for a long time. Gorse is in flower already, ensuring a winter pollen supply, weather permitting. In short, hives should go into winter in reasonable condition this year.

With Westland hosting Conference this year, most of us are involved and busying ourselves with preparations. Perhaps it would be timely to offer a few pointers for those who plan to attend, and we would hope that it will be many.

If you plan to fly in, the Main Air Terminal is at Hokitika with a connecting bus service to Greymouth (\$4.00 per head), which may be booked with air tickets. The Greymouth Bus Depot is opposite King's Hotel, the Conference venue, so no extra travel arrangements are necessary.

King's Hotel have offered the Conference Room free of charge on the understanding that the Conference is to be held "in-house", so as much support as possible would be appreciated.

A bus trip has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon to Punakaiki, scenic Pancake Rocks, Blow Holes, and the new Visitors' Centre ... a lovely trip up the coastline. This area is presently under consideration for a national park.

Excellent entertainment has been lined up for the Dinner & Dance. We are aiming to give you a real holiday while on business. The West Coast Branch extends a warm invitation to all and we're looking forward to meeting you.

Sandy Richardson

NORTH OTAGO

This season would, I think, be the most frustrating ever. Right up to Christmas the whole countryside was a picture with the promise of another better-than-average season: the second in a row, to give us the boost we really needed. Alas, the weather gods frowned on us. Nor'wester after nor'wester, and those beautiful pastures, full of clover, disappeared overnight. That was the start of the drought and with the exception of the top part of the Waitahi Valley, which fared somewhat better, crops ranged from barely winter stores to a half-ton to the 100 hives. All in all a depressing year, not only for the beekeeper but for the farming community as well. Paddocks looked like the Sahara desert and barely a sheep to be seen. Up to the time of writing there seems no break in the weather: just fine, day after day. We will all be looking for a good willow flow in Spring to supplement stores. In fact, some beekeepers are already feeding sugar to ensure that their hives go into winter in good condition. The rains will come, eventually, of course, and benefit us next year, but a drought of this

magnitude is a tragedy that will effect our community for many years to come.

George Winslade

SOUTH AUCKLAND

Well, here we are in May 1985, the honey flow for the season is over, and if it was not the real bumper we've all been waiting for it was certainly an improvement on the last three years around Auckland. The biggest knock South Auckland beekeepers took was the night we had up to 10 inches of rain and the hives of some beekeepers went down the river. Some even floated out on to the Waitemata Harbour. I understand that some lost up to 40 hives. Others lost whole apiaries as well as their honey crop.

On Friday, May 10, we held a Field Day at Wilma and Kerry Fountain's honey house. Subjects discussed were honey houses, plant design and construction, and we had a demonstration of extracting honey and a review of why we did not capture all the 1985 honey available.

A well-attended annual meeting again voted Arthur Ellis Chairman and Helen Wright Secretary.

The NZ Herald of Saturday May 4, quoted Mr Caygill as saying that the Government had announced that from July 1, 33 food and beverage items would be exempted from import licensing. The list included many stone

fruits, dried vegetables, aerated waters, chocolate powder, meat extracts, and **natural honey**. Natural honey, if exempted from import control, could be a disaster financially for beekeepers as well as greatly increasing the risk of disease.

Dave Young

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICTS

Following the harvest of a good-to-better than average honey crop, all apiaries have settled down to a well-earned winter rest. The warm and very dry autumn has almost seemed an extension of summer, but the lack of nectar sources in pastures has reminded us of the plight of pastoral farmers facing a drought. Fortunately the honey crop was gathered in by the end of January, before the drought worsened.

The second brood box on most hives is full of winter stores. As brood rearing declined with the approach of winter, brood comb has been filled with stores even down to the bottom brood chamber as well.

So wintering should be straightforward apart from the threat of wasps worrying some apiaries now.

Another threat is the hedge trimmer. It would have been an excellent autumn for nectar from baythorn in Taranaki but for the "short back and sides" trim given to

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hedges, cutting the impact of this important pre-winter source to the beekeeper.

We had a well-attended field day in the "gumboot" town of Taihape in early March. Veteran beekeeper Stewart Tweedale was host. Upon reflection its hardly been gumboot weather yet, such has been the very pleasant autumn enjoyed by all.

John Brandon

BAY OF PLENTY

Bruce Stanley has retired as President and we have elected Rod Walker to take his place. Bruce had carried heavy branch responsibilities along with Secretary Nick Wallinford. Nick has also now retired as Secretary (to be replaced by me) and both will be missed as they took a great interest in Branch affairs. However, since neither are leaving the area we hope they will continue to attend our meetings. Many thanks for the efforts and time these two, and other members, have put into running the Branch. This area is at present experiencing a very long, dry autumn. With hives coming into winter in good condition, and with the most honey for winter feeding for many years, beekeepers can look forward to a reasonably good winter.

The bush is looking good because we have had no drought for several years.

Rewarewa is already budding and Tauware looks promising. With a little bit of good weather we may have another reasonable season.

Most hives in our area are used for kiwifruit pollination and so produce very little honey surplus for sale. This year seems to have been the exception and most established beekeepers have produced about two tons per 100 hives. For many years hives here have produced less than they eat after kiwifruit pollination.

MAF are running a course on bee diseases at the Tauranga Community College on June 4-5. This course should be high on the priority list for all beekeepers. Disease in hives is the greatest threat to us all, not to just the guy who owns the infected hives.

Trevor Bryant, our MAF advisor, and his helpers have done an excellent job of hive monitoring and inspection this last season.

The kiwifruit crop is at present being picked and most orchards are recording above-average crops.

Jim Courtney

SOUTHLAND

It now seems that the crop for the season will average around 2.75 tonnes per 100, an appreciable improvement over last season but still quite a bit below the 10-year average. The countryside is looking well after a good autumn, around 150mm of rain, little wind and plenty of sun, one or two frosts tho' over recent weeks — winter around the corner!

MAF Apiculture Advisory Officer Mr C. Van Eaton moved north at the end of April. His successor in this area is Mr C. Vardy, also from Canada. A good muster of

Otago and Southland members turned up at the social evening held at Telford on April 17 to say "farewell" to Cliff and Mrs Van Eaton and "welcome" to Clive and Mrs Vardy. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Recently National Executive Member Keith Herron reported on a day spent by the Executive with the Quarantine Service at Auckland. There can be no doubt that they render an invaluable service to beekeepers, in fact to all N.Zers. Also discussed recently was the industrial raw sugar scheme. Users agreed it was a good scheme and hope that it will continue. Thank you National Executive.

Russell Rhodes

NELSON

Apart from a short spell which blessed us with a welcome 5.7 inches of rain, we have undoubtedly enjoyed an excellent autumn. Around bush areas honeydew has flowed freely giving the colonies ample opportunity to fill the larder. Calm days and high temperatures have supplied every opportunity for re-queening and united activities before any signs of clustering.

Taking advantage of an invitation from the Nelson Branch of The Tree Crops Association, some of our members met at the DSIR establishment, Riwaka. Mr Roy Hart conducted us round the experimental orchards and discussed varieties while we sampled grapes and figs. The selection of chestnut and walnut stock came high on the agenda. After lunch we shot off to D. Proebst's establishment up the road to see how shelter belts and bee fodder can work hand in hand.

Rex Bolwell's wife, a dab hand at extracting, uncapped a sample stack of three-quarter Manley drone-based honey supers. Comment: "What a pity they're not all like that."

Regretably our last AGM saw the retirement of our President, Gavin White, and Secretary Rex Bolwell. They did their noble stint, and well. Our newly-elected President is David Haycock and Mrs Margaret Syms is our new Secretary. Two chairs that need keen occupants!

Why visit Africa when you're blessed with a roving AAO like Andrew Matheson? Save time, risk, and money and run through his intriguing slides plus an appropriate commentary in the comfort of an armchair. Thanks, Andrew.

Fred Galea

POVERTY BAY

Local beekeepers have experienced a better than usual season with most nectar sources yielding well. Despite this above average season some beekeepers are still feeling the financial effects of the two previous poor seasons. At the moment most hives are wintering down fairly well with good populations of bees and honey stores.

The local community college has begun a bee-breeding improvement programme. Any local beekeepers inter-



ested in contributing breeding stock will be eligible to reap the obvious end results.

Let's hope the winter shall be mild, that the wasps stay home, and that the spring brings light rain and night and still, sunny days. A beekeeper's wish.

Peter Lamb

WAIKATO

The Branch held its AGM on April 19 with Lindsay Hansen re-elected President and Tony Lorimer continuing as Secretary.

It was decided at the meeting to offer to host the 1986 conference but whether it will be held in Hamilton or at another place has yet to be resolved as Hamilton does not have a suitable venue where conference and accommodation are close together.

Dudley Lorimer, convalescing from a broken hip sustained when he slipped and fell in his honeyhouse, has retired from the Coromandel Closed-area Committee. Dudley received a very nice letter of appreciation from Under-secretary for Agriculture, David Butcher, thanking him as a senior member of the Committee for his outstanding contribution spanning eight years on the committee.

Beekeepers are now able to leave their hives permanently in what was the closed area as long as they take

excess honey off by a set time. There has been greatly increased co-operation between beekeepers and MAF over the past few years.

The crop in the Waikato has been patchy in some areas and good in others — average possibly three to three and a half tonnes per 100 hives. Kamahi and manuka produced well for a change. The crop would have been a lot better if nodding thistle had produced but this year it has a rest.

Some 3,500 packages of bees and a large number of extra queens were exported to Canada and arrived safely. This enterprise was helped by the unusually late mating this year.

For those beekeepers still taking their crop off, the weather has been very kind for the past few weeks with warm, sunny days. A real Indian summer, in fact.

Ray Robinson

SOUTH CANTERBURY

At the time of writing, South Canterbury is still in the throes of a disastrous drought with no sign of relief. Farmers are desperate and even if sufficient rain fell to break the drought it is far too late for pasture revival. How this will affect next season's honey crop is difficult to assess. Much of the pasture is dead or eaten into the

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roots. Whether this pasture will ever fully recover is not known, but experience of the 1969/70 drought would indicate much will require to be resown otherwise only weeds will survive. Long-range weather forecasts indicate a wetter period ahead so we live in hope.

Temperatures have been well above normal for this time of year and this has created an unusual problem. Bees have remained active and brood rearing continued much later than usual resulting in the hives being much stronger in bee strength. This caused a greater usage of stores left for overwintering with the result hives wintered early now require rechecking for stores and in many cases feeding to replace the used stores.

Those beekeepers who feed sugar syrup in the autumn for overwintering and spring stores have a distinct advantage this year as the energy used to take

up, invert, and store the syrup for feed does age the bees and so reduces the bee strength during the winter period. Also through this reduced bee population the hive is much more manageable in the following spring.

During the extracting season opportunity was taken for branch members to pay a visit to Brian Marett's new honey house and extracting plant. What a joy it was! So beautifully finished, spacious, and well planned. Typically of Brian everything was immaculate, a credit to him.

Peter Morrison of St Andrews also has a new honey house and plant, very similar to Brian's and equally well finished and spacious. These two young beekeepers are to be congratulated for their enterprise.

Autumn queen rearing and requeening has been very successful. What else could we expect with such a fine sunny autumn? No doubt this will be reflected next spring by the small number of queenless hives.

The 1984/85 season has come to an end. We did our best but the weather is a tough adversary and so we look to the challenge of next season with hope and for plenty of rain at the right time.

Harry Cloake



TO THE EDITOR (Cont.)

Dear Sir,

The following is a transcript of an article that appeared in the London Daily Mirror on Tuesday 25 February 1985, which no doubt beekeepers will find interesting.

"Beekeepers are demanding a national network of nuclear bomb-proof beehives to save the world after a holocaust.

Without bees plants would not be pollinated, they say. So there would be no crops or animal fodder and survivors would be doomed to starvation.

Louis Riley, Secretary of the Cornish Beekeepers' Association, said yesterday: 'Bees are the first link in the food chain'.

Cornwall Horticultural Chief, David Pearce, backed the call for Government action. He said: 'It's a vital plan'."

G. Hyams
Senior Manager-Honey Division
Kimpton Bros. Ltd.

Dear Sir,

We should have a whiz-banger of a flower crop next summer if surface moisture is an indication. A 10-day snow just let up, leaving 54" of the white stuff piled upon the previous two feet. Three-storey colonies in the yard are just barely visible while two-box hives (Langstroth deeps) aren't even a bump on the snow surface.

Last summer was a total bust — the worst year in the Interior for well over a decade. Beautiful spring and buildup but July-August was mostly rain, the wet sort, and the little buggers just weren't up to swimming to the water-logged blooms. Honey yield? Just a memory of years past. Next year? Well, of course it'll be a new record for harvest ... I hope.

Have a great New Year — with subscriptions as well as with supers.

Dave Tozier
Alaska

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Greymouth 23-24-25 July

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PROGRAMME

Monday 22 Social 'get together' at Kings Motor Hotel 8 p.m.
Tuesday 23 MAF Industry Planning Workshop. Specialty group Meetings during evening
Wednesday 24 Conference. Dine & Dance Social Evening. Afternoon bus trip for ladies
Thursday 25 Conference all day.

COSTS

Social 'get-together' No charge — drinks own expense
Workshop Registration \$6 includes morning and afternoon teas
Conference Registration \$15 includes morning and afternoon teas and bus trip for ladies.
Social Evening \$22.50 includes dinner dance and entertainment — drinks own expense.
Tickets for the above will be available at the 'get together' on July 22 and in the mornings before the Workshop and Conference. Please send no money in advance.

ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Russell King, Managing Director of the hotel, advises he will have plenty of rooms available and he has been very helpful by providing the Conference Hall and Trade Display area free of charge. The following are his room rates.

"Tower" Superior deluxe rooms in new high rise wing. Single \$55.00. Twin/double \$65.00, Triple \$75.00, Quad \$85.00. Suite (kitchen) + \$20.00.
"Kotuku" Typical "Motor-Inn" type, bath, shower, toilet, colour TV etc. Single \$45.00, Twin/double \$55.00, Triple \$65.00, Quad \$75.00.
"Palace" Budget prices in original building — private shower and toilet, radio, tea-making gear and 11" colour TV. single \$35.00, Twin/double \$45.00, Triple \$55.00, Quad \$65.00.

Childrens rates (in all grades). Under 16 years in parents room \$5.00. Cot — no charge.

As the Workshop, Conference, and Social evening are all being held at the hotel, members will find it very convenient to stay at the hotel. Also for those travelling by air, the bus from the airport at Hokitika stops opposite the hotel doors. It would be helpful to the hotel management if bookings could be made as soon as convenient.

If accommodation other than at the hotel is required, details should be available at your local travel agent.

The West coast Branch President and Secretary Lindsay and Daphne Feary, 3 Mawhera St, Dobson will be happy to answer any enquiries. The phone number is: Dobson (027-25) 691.

BEGINNERS' NOTES

Equipment Choice

By: Skep

Winter is always a good time to do some thinking about the state of your equipment. Because the bees themselves are not very active, you should have more time to spend on maintenance, repair, and assembly of new equipment. Because all of your honey supers are off the hives and in the shed, it is a good time to take stock of your gear and prepare for the coming season. If you are like most other beekeepers, you probably end up wiring frames and painting boxes the night before they need to be on the hives.

Equipment choice for hobbyist-beekeepers is a touchy subject. I have no doubt that I'll step on a few ingrown prejudices with some of the things I have to say this month. Every beekeeper seems to know what he or she likes, and too often this translates into what is the best or only way of doing something. Choosing the right equipment is not spared this attitude.

Before getting down to specifics, however, let's talk

about some of the factors you as a hobbyist should consider when selecting equipment for your beehives. Though you are not bound quite so firmly as the commercial beekeeper by the need to standardize, it should still be an important factor.

Unless you intend to keep your hives forever and never plan to try to sell them, you really must keep to standard dimensions. Buyers are just not interested, and rightly so, in 'one-off' designs that mean equipment cannot be moved from one hive to another. Ask any English hobbyist about standardization of equipment sizes — he has at least half a dozen various hive designs in use! Smith, W3C, Langstroth ... the list reads on and on. None of the frames are interchangeable, and you can imagine the problems that result.

Before you decide that you know better than all the other beekeepers around about dimensions, spare a few



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L84/8

thoughts to the problems you can encounter by designing your own hive.

Another factor in hive design considered far too infrequently is the behaviour of the bees themselves —let's give them a say in the matter too! Fortunately, they are not too fussy, but a couple of things do need to be borne in mind.

The size of the brood nest area is a subject debated since early last century. There have been 'fads', periods when a small and crowded brood nest was considered to be best, and other times when it was recognised that a larger area was necessary.

Some people will tell you that a single full-depth Langstroth brood chamber is not large enough, and I must agree. Some interesting calculations can shed light on the matter. In theory (and I always hesitate to use that word) there should be enough. If you calculate the number of worker cells on one side of a full-depth frame, then multiply that by two to get the total for one frame, then multiply again by 10 for the 10 frames in the brood nest. The result is quite large.

You can then estimate a queen's egg-laying. What I consider to be a 'reliable' estimate seems to be about 1500 eggs per day during the peak of the laying period. Multiplying this by the 21 days from egg to adult shows that over 30000 cells are required.

Where the 'theory' breaks down is in the 'practice'. Firstly, you will never have perfect frames from corner to corner. Either drone cells or holes will mar most frames, especially those in the box closest to the floorboard. Bees rarely fill these out completely because they do not seem to like the draughty area at the entrance of the hive. Similarly, queens do not really like to lay on the outside frames.

Another reason the theoretical number of cells available won't be reached is the need for storage of nectar and pollen. Pollen especially must be located close to the brood area to be best utilised by the nurse bees.

When all these are added up, it leaves me with the conclusion that more than one box is needed. That does not mean that single-storey hives have no place; far from it. I prefer to winter my hives in a single brood chamber if possible. Some hives, obviously, can't be squeezed down into one box in the autumn, but I have found that when a hive can be, it seems to come through the winter better. Come spring, however, I have to be right there with another box when it is needed. With such a small amount of storage space, early spring feeding must be spot on, as well.

With many more beekeepers moving toward three-quarter depth boxes, both for honey storage and for the brood nest, I'd have to suggest any hobbyist give them a close examination. If that sounds a bit half-hearted, it is only because I recognise that most beekeepers do not want to go through the stage of having two different sized boxes and frames around. If I was starting up fresh, there are few doubts in my mind that I would start with all three-quarter depth equipment (That should get the letters of complaint started!)

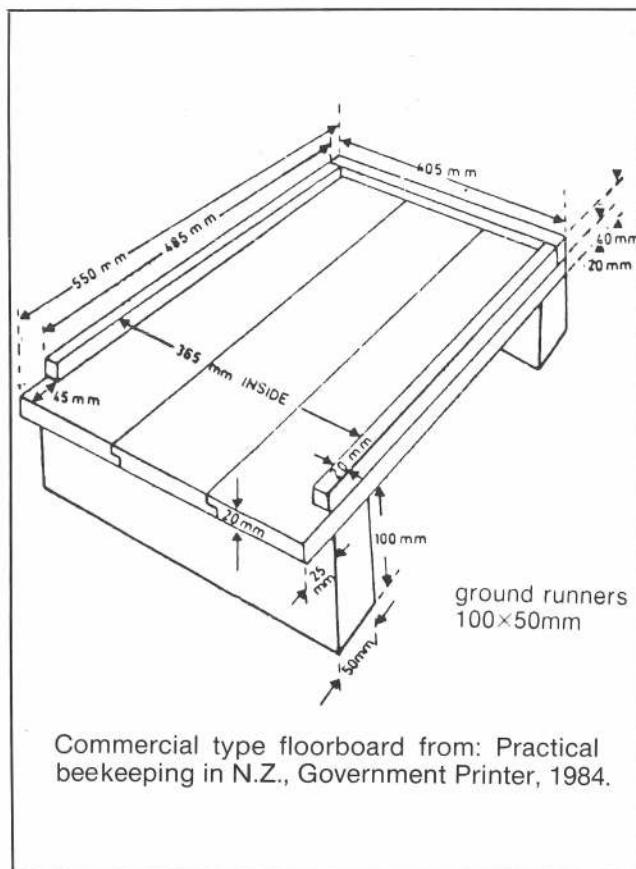
After lifting a three-quarter depth box of honey and comparing with back breaking (when you're lucky, admittedly) full depth boxes, my decision was made for me. And yes, I do know all the other arguments, that you

need more of them for a given number of hives and all that. Even considering all of that, I would still give three-quarter depth equipment the 'thumbs up'.

Fortunately as hobbyists, we don't have to make many decisions in the way of frame type. In past issues of this column when written by David Williams, you may have read some of the arguments for and against Manley frames. Manley frames have a wide end bar so that they 'self space' to eight frames to the box. For the dedicated honey producer, I guess they have a place, and I'll acknowledge they are a pleasure to uncap. I could not bring myself to start 'unstandardizing' my hives through their use, however. I always seem to need to grab a frame of honey from a super to stick into another hive's brood nest, and Manleys won't allow that.

I can't imagine any self-respecting hobbyist using Simplicity frames, though I know there are still a few commercial beekeepers making them. About the only 'variation' I would go along with in frame design is the use of narrow end bars. The late R.R. Bushby wrote an excellent article back in August 1975 in the Beekeeper advocating end bars only 32mm wide, so that 11 frames could fit into the brood nest. Though I'll admit that after some waxing and propolis, my hives are usually reduced to ten frames in the brood nest area, the closing-up of space has at least one other advantage to the better wintering and build-up claimed by Mr Bushby. With narrow end bars, you'll find a great reduction in the amount of burr comb between top bars and combs.

One other personal prejudice I'll air at this time (You'll note that its not only 'those other beekeepers' who have personal prejudices ...) is in the use of mats on the hive.



For the life of me, I can't see how beekeepers can persist in the use of sacking mats on the tops of hives. The rip, rip, shred of pulling these off infuriates the bees. I always find it amusing to watch beekeepers carefully replacing the virtual doily left after the bees have chewed the mat into a fine web of fabric. I personally much prefer the use of the hardboard mat. With a 25mm slot cut in one side, it becomes a combination mat/division board, as well as a convenient place to write notes and keep records.

And to finish off this month's column, I'll leave you with a question. Who can convince me that the use of the 'reversible bottom board' is a reasonable thing? Complicated in construction and assembly, it seems like such a 'gadgetsy' thing I really cannot imagine people using it, and yet they proliferate! A basic commercial floor, such as the one in the illustration from Andrew Matheson's book, *Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand*, is so much more practical to construct. If you feel the need to cut down the entrance size, a simple reducer can be made from tin or a strip of wood and nailed to the front.

Though there are no hard and fast answers in the choice of hive equipment, I hope you'll always realise that your convenience and bee behaviour must both be considered. As with so many things in beekeeping, there is no right or wrong choice; some things will suit some people, and the proper management of your hives in the long term is of more importance than the actual equipment choice.

'Skep'

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Feeding Industrial Grade Sugar

By Cliff van Eaton

(From The Southern Beekeeper)

The new industrial grade sugar now being offered through both the Co-op and NBA branches is certain to make an impression on beekeeping budgets in Southland next year. At current prices the sugar is likely to reduce feed costs in this district by close to \$130.00 per tonne. This represents a cost saving of approximately \$1,200.00 in the average owner/operator enterprise. Not bad going at a time when many other beekeeping expense items have just gone up.

Still, I had my doubts about giving an unqualified endorsement of its use last year, especially when fed as syrup. Cage tests done at Wallaceville had shown bee mortality, although Pat Clinch was quick to point out that the quantity of unrefined material varied considerably between batches. So your intrepid advisory officer did some fence-sitting and watched carefully the results of those brave souls in the area who used it extensively as syrup last year. Russell Cloake was one of those heroes and he gave an excellent presentation on the subject at this year's Southland Field Day. Here is a summary of what most people have found.

Effect on bees

No mortality has been reported and hives did extremely well on the product. I have now come to the conclusion that since bees can defecate out the residue it doesn't pose the same problem as it would when fed to caged bees. Bad weather wouldn't seem to be a problem either, since bees don't have to fly far from the hive to defecate.

Amount of stores

If anything the sugar produced greater stores, but that's probably because the sugar is fed as a thicker syrup (see next).

Fermentation

One problem with the syrup is that it goes off rapidly if not used. The best solution is to make as thick a syrup as possible (9:5). The syrup must also be fed out completely and not left on the back of the truck for a few weeks. The fermented product smells remarkably like beer.

Palatability

Without much doubt the bees certainly go for the stuff. It seems to induce robbing much more than white sugar and the bees take it from the feeders very quickly.

Tainting of stores

This can definitely be a problem, particularly if the syrup is fed within three-four weeks of the honey flow. What it does show very graphically is how bees move stores around the hive. The dark honey produced by the syrup can find its way into individual cells of extraction combs, even though the honey supers were put on the colonies several weeks after the syrup was taken down.

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB

By: Clive Vardy

When Opotiki beekeeper Alan Murray went hunting for a loading system, he found more than he bargained for. Alan chose the Palfinger Compact Boom Loader, Model PC 2400. This lightweight and compact unit has proven both a reliable and extremely versatile performer.

Alan found the loader as effective in the apiary yard as he envisaged. The pleasant surprise came when he used it elsewhere. A large custom-built pallet fork moves loads of supers and supplies easily. A simple honey-drum clasp device gives yeoman service at extracting time. The movement of timber and large heavy objects becomes a breeze, wherever the truck has access. The Palfinger permits Alan to contract his services out to kiwifruit growers, where he transports fruit bins from the orchard to the packhouses. Not only does this provide an extra income but it also gives Alan a competitive advantage come kiwifruit pollination time. His prospective and present pollination clients are dealing with a known beekeeper with a past assessable work record. The Palfinger's versatility has earned Alan extra dollars, improved his efficiency, and has reduced his physical labour considerably.

The Palfinger Compact Loader is electro-hydraulically powered with an extendable telescopic boom. The primary extension is hydraulic, and the second extension boom also has three manually selected lengths with a retractable safety hook. A vertical column fitted with a second hydraulic lifting ram supports and lifts the boom. A hydraulic (worm gear) slewing device rotates the Palfinger.

The operating geometry is practical with the Palfinger rotating through 360°. The hook travels from two metres below the deck to a height of 4.5 metres above the truck. The maximum lifting capacity is 1910 kg. At full extension (3.3 metres) the limit is 735 kg. This is sufficient for Alan to move a heavily laden four-hive pallet anywhere within the boom's reach, yet the loader is lightweight at 220 kg. When properly mounted the total installation weighs less than a drum of honey!

When not in use the Palfinger PC 2400 folds into an extremely compact shape. It is unique with the retracted boom lying parallel to the vertical support column. This compactness is a real plus on a fully loaded bee truck. This is possible by having all the vital components, the drive unit, pump, valves, hoses and the reservoir integrated within the support column. Lightweight and compact, yet the Palfinger affords maximum protection against abuse or accidental damage.

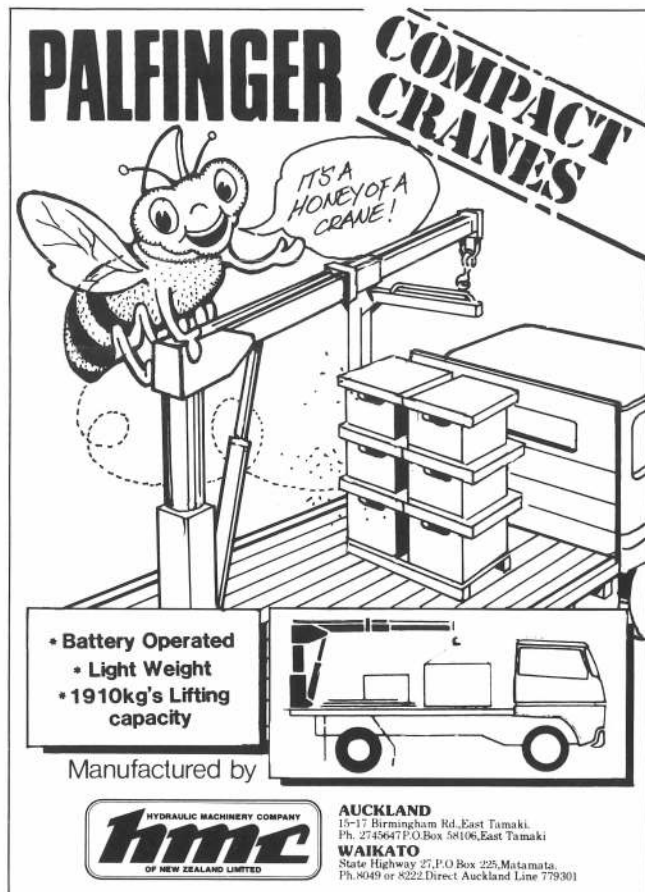
The Palfinger is mounted on the right rear corner of Alan's three-tonne Mitsubishi Canter Diesel. The column stands on a detachable sub-frame extending from the 4.5 metre deck. Although the deck extends forward of the 3.5 metre boom reach, this is inconvenient in very few instances. Alan developed a simple set of detachable

deck rollers to push crates etc. forward. For most of his beekeeping applications he prefers to be heavily-laden over the rear wheels, using the rollers on very few occasions.

A stabiliser is attachable to either side of the sub-frame, thereby resisting the levering action of a heavily laden boom. The operation of the stabiliser foot is manual and is both time-consuming and cumbersome. Alan has since substituted a "jackall", a tall free-standing heavy duty bumper jack, which snugs nicely under the sub-frame. Quick and effective. An optimal hydraulic stabiliser leg is now available.

The off-centre mount and a little care often negates the use of a stabiliser providing heavy loads don't stray far from the deck's centre line.

The off-centre rear mounting has other advantages; overhanging loads of timber and materials are easily handled and carried. The boom reaches out behind the



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THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT (Cont.)

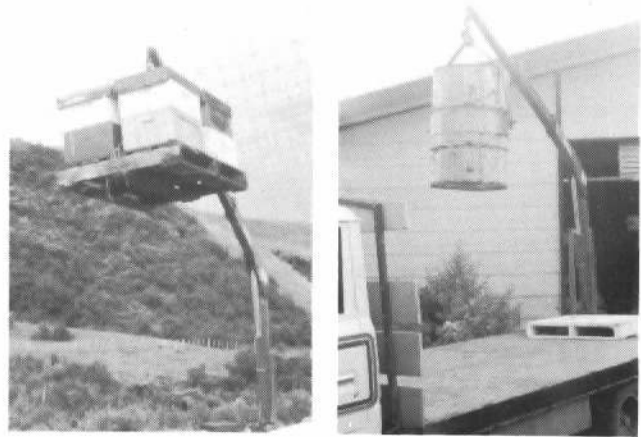
truck as compared to the traditional "sides only" coverage. In the apiary Alan can stagger his pallets two deep in a "U" configuration around the truck deck. This gives a compact, efficient apiary with minimal drifting problems.



Palfinger compact ready for travel.



Alan's assistant hooking on to pallet.



The Palfinger lifts a pallet.

One of the many uses around a honey house.

with the extendable boom, hook, and the hydraulic slewing device. The installation cost is extra. For Alan Murray the Palfinger has been a bargain. It could be for you too.

The rear installation, according to Alan, has if anything improved the truck ride, while hardly offering any fuel-robbing, wind resistance.

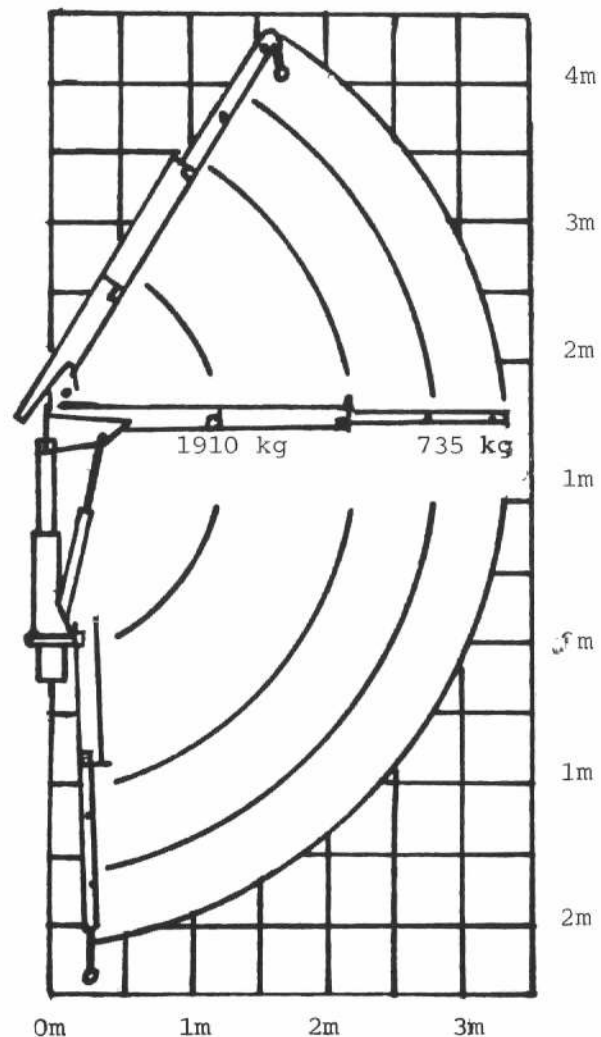
Alan recommends the 24-volt electrics as being trouble free. During heavy usage periods, he installs two 12-volt car batteries in a series parallel configuration beside the stock 24-volt Mitsubishi unit. This combined with a fast idle offers trouble-free electrical power. During kiwifruit pollination the engine is often run non-stop for periods exceeding eight hours. With an even mix of boom operation and truck driving Alan reckons on an eight to 10 litre-per-hour diesel consumption: a minimal cost as compared to another labour unit.

The crane is available with a 12 or 24-volt option to suit the truck.

The boom operation is simple, using three control levers located at the column base. Cost prevented the installation of remote levers at the retractable hook end. Alan has developed an ingenious pallet attachment system that leaves the pallet fork at the honey house, yet he requires no assistance in the yard (see article on page 25 for a description of the pallet). He just manoeuvres the safety hook up close to the pallet attachment point, clips on the boom extendable hook and, once back at the controls, presto!

The spring on the retractable hook offers minimal resistance to pulling so anyone can serve as an assistant if desired. At night he attaches a magnetic flash light to the boom, illuminating the hook. Simplicity and the Palfinger are synonymous!

The Compact PC 2400 is the smallest Palfinger model available from the Hydraulic Machinery Company of New Zealand. The Palfinger is a patented Austrian design that is manufactured in the Waikato at Matamata. The current cost is \$5091 NZ for the basic unit equipped



WHEN IS A SEMINAR NOT A SEMINAR?

When it's an industry planning workshop. At Conference this year you will have the chance to hear how the NBA's (your) industry plan has achieved results over the past 12 months, and you'll be able to contribute ideas for its on-going success.

What?

Instead of running a seminar prior to Conference this year, MAF will hold an industry planning workshop. This will be a mixture of speakers and active involvement by those attending (that's you).

Why?

Because it's 12 months since the idea of industry planning was "unveiled" at the New Plymouth Conference. The plan is not something to be pulled out and dusted off at branch meetings occasionally: it's a way of making things happen for your industry. Now it's your chance to hear how it's worked. And to add ideas for the future.

How?

The workshop will look at three themes:
 — industry requirements for MAF servicing. What should MAF be doing? Which things are the most important? What happens if MAF can't do them all?
 — bee pathology. Why does New Zealand need a bee pathologist? (What does one look like, for that matter?) Hear Dr Denis Anderson, of the DSIR, talk about his job. ask him about priorities for disease research in this country.
 — agricultural quarantine services. How much honey gets intercepted at Auckland airport each month? How do the "boys (and girls) in green" stop more coming in? What will you do to help protect your livelihood from ruin by exotic disease outbreaks?

Where?

Kings Motor Hotel, Greymouth.

When?

Tuesday 23 July 1985; the day before the NBA's annual conference. Registration from 8:30am.

Who?

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HANDLING PALLETS THE EASY WAY

BY: CLIVE VARDY

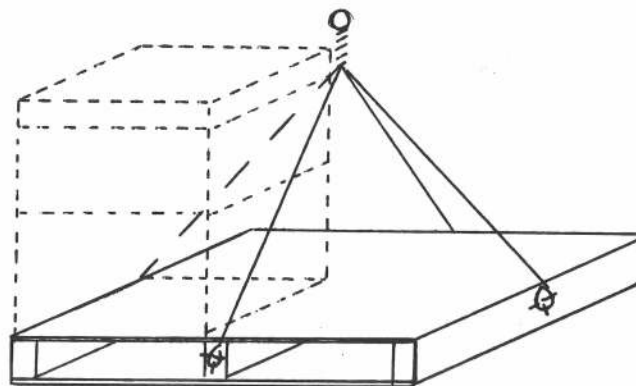
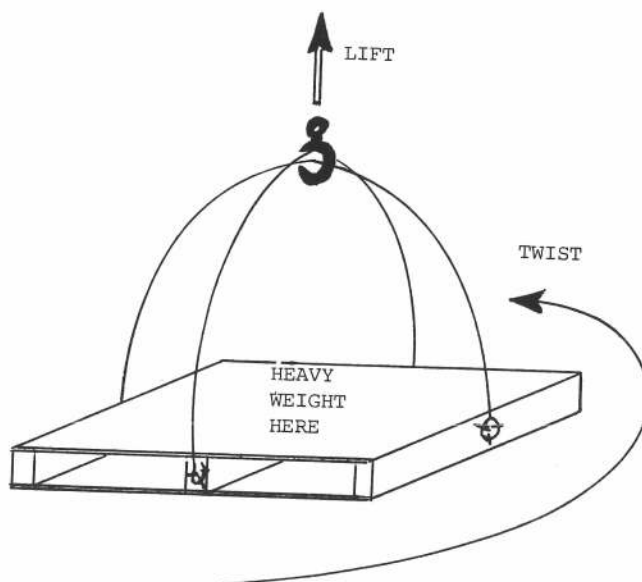
Beekeeper Alan Murray of Opotiki has developed an ingenious device for lifting pallet loads of bee-hives. The materials required are a serviceable pallet, two 2.4 metre lengths of strong fencing wire, some fence staples, a heavy weight, and a suspended hook.

The construction is simple. Securely staple one end of the wire on a pallet side equidistant from the corners. Attach the other end of the wire to the opposite pallet side in a similar fashion. Repeat the process for the remaining sides.

Transport the pallets stacked "ASIS" to the apiary. Suspend the pallet by both crossed wires from the hook. Place a weight in the pallet centre and carefully turn the pallet to twist the wires. This creates a wire ring at the hook's bight. This central ring will protrude when the hives are nestled in their four corners. The four diagonal wires will run in between the hives down to their attachment points between the hive bottom boards.

Use a boom with a simple hook, no forks necessary, and lift away. A simple hive clamping device, possibly using a "H" of wood and a single strap is now in the design stage.

Well done Alan! It is quick, simple, and cheap — music to any beekeeper's ears.



BYTES AND STINGS — USING A COMPUTER IN BEEKEEPING EDUCATION

When he's not surrounded by the humming of the hives in the Bay of Plenty Community College demonstration apiary, the Beekeeping Tutor at the College is often around a different humming sound — that of a computer/word processor.

The College is using a Wang Professional Computer for much of the work involved in organising and presenting beekeeping courses. According to Principal Kevin Hearle, the College chose the Wang system because of its versatility and as a way of maintaining a large degree of flexibility in the future.

"Because we are already using similar systems for office administration functions, such as data base, records, preparing reports, and word-processing work, we knew it was a powerful and flexible system for the comprehensive task of computerising this distance education function.

"The College used John Shaw of No. 1 Computer Centre in Auckland to design the system and write software for this programme. He used a fourth generation package called 'Open Access' to generate the programmes for administration requirements for the course and has linked this to Wang word-processing software which is being used for the tutorial function. This has produced a very powerful system catering for courseware, enrolment, correspondence, student records, and reporting.

And how is it for the actual user, Beekeeping Tutor Nick Wallingford?

"Though I knew how to type already, I knew very little else about computers. It surprised me how easy it was to learn. Though I only really started to use the word processor several months ago, already I find that I write just about everything using it."

Mr Wallingford's first job with the Wang involved preparing all of the written modules of the new Certificate in Beekeeping to be ready for the printer.

"Once the bulk of the modules were actually typed on the machine, I found it very easy to edit them as I went, re-write sections, change page layouts, and insert new writing. To do the same thing using a typewriter would have been a massive undertaking. With the modules in the machine's memory, there are two very important advantages. I can call up any page of a module very quickly to either read or to copy and include in a letter to a student. Even more valuable will be the chance to up-date material as things change.

"The material on pests and diseases, for instance, had changed between the time I first wrote it and the time I was preparing it for the printer. In just a few minutes, I was able to include all the new information, such as the outbreak of acarine disease in the United States.

"Over the years, the written material should grow and improve as new things are added and old things change. If I discover that some section is unclearly written, with many students misunderstanding it, its quick work to fix

it up. We won't be stuck with inappropriate or old information."

The use of the computer in this beekeeping distance education course puts both the beekeeping industry and the Bay of Plenty Community College in an exciting new field. According to Principal Hearle, the machine will be used extensively in several aspects of the course, but for maintaining student records and for feedback to students, the computer should come into its own.

"Keeping accurate student records is necessary from the administration point of view, naturally, but it should help Nick as a tutor as well. As the registrations come in, he can keep a check on the numbers and the other information involved to make sure that the students enrolling will be capable of doing the course work.

"The really novel use will be the feedback that Nick can give the students through using the machine. Rather than simple short handwritten comments on the student's work, Nick will be able to comment at greater length with little extra work. He will be able to store frequently-made comments to include in letters to other students as well.

"Very often, tutors notice that if a portion of the work is unclear to one student, the tutor will get the same question from other students as well. Not only will the computer enable better replies, but Nick can then go back to change the written material for the next year to correct the problems.

"This use of a computer/word processor for the administration, preparation of material, and the actual script-marking and writing to students in a distance education programme is entirely new. It really puts the beekeepers at the forefront in their education and training when compared to any other programmes in existence."

Mr Wallingford is building up a library of paragraphs to be used when writing to students. These will enable him to construct a personal reply to any questions asked by students, tailoring the information to the individual student.

"If someone wants to know more about a certain subject, I can then either answer the question directly or direct them to someplace or someone that will have the information. It should keep that essential link between tutor and student in a distance education course much more alive and personal.

"I know that seems a contradiction — using a computer to be more personal — but its not really. I see the machine very much like my filing cabinet. When I am asked about something, I often go digging into it to find either something that I've written or a magazine article to give to them. Using the computer just speeds up the process of looking for the information."

Having the Wang Professional Computer at the College has helped Mr Wallingford in other ways as well.

Continued page 28

PLANNING REPORT

MAY 1985

There is an old saying that "self-praise is no recommendation". However, I want to take this opportunity to give our Association members a 'pat-on-the-back' for the positive approach they have generally made to the adoption of our Industry Planning system. In just twelve months since the initial planning forum at Flock House, we have seen a comprehensive Plan formulated, and considerable worthwhile activity generated at all levels of our organisation.

Much has been achieved, but much more remains to be done. Your executive has just carried out the first annual review of the '84-'85 Plan, and considering the extent of the programme we undertook, objectives have generally been reached. Some have been reached with greater success than we even hoped for; others have meant a change of direction into contingency actions to suit developments along the way. Still others, fortunately few, have proved less successful. Perhaps these require a pat on the back as well, although somewhat harder, and at a point lower down the anatomy!

One of the most pleasing results has been in the response from branches, a number of which have recently sent a brief report to the Executive on their own actions arising from those in the Industry Plan. Most have commented favourably, and branch activities in some cases has been quite considerable and enthusiastic. More information and ideas are being generated and passed between branches and we look forward to further sharing of ideas through branch reports to Conference '85.

The MAF apicultural advisory section is also worthy of their share of praise for the success-to-date of the planning process. They have continued to provide full support and guidance in implementing the plan, and a content of the 'N.Z. Beekeeper' is included with this issue (Goal B, objective 4). We look forward to an equally good response from readers.

The MAF Apicultural Advisory section is also worthy

of their share of praise for the success-to-date of the planning process. They have continued to provide full support and guidance in implementing the plan, and a number of our objectives were incorporated in their current work programmes when they met recently to plan priorities for the next year or so. A copy of their plan, covering seven action areas of national importance to our industry, has been sent to all branch secretaries. This provides branches with an opportunity to tie activities in to support, or receive support from, MAF action wherever appropriate.

Such mutual exchange of information must be beneficial to all concerned, and it highlights two of the key reasons for industry planning which I outlined in the Summer '84 issue report, namely EFFICIENCY and CO-ORDINATION.

The forthcoming 1985 Beekeepers' Conference at Greymouth will play a key role in the further development of our planning. As pointed out previously, remits to Conference, and branch and interest-groups reports will all generate input into the plan for '85-'86 year. In particular, the MAF Industry Planning Workshop on Tuesday July 23 will provide a major opportunity for ideas to be put forward. It will highlight three themes: MAF servicing for the beekeeping industry; bee pathology services; and agricultural quarantine.

Various speakers on these topics, along with discussion groups involving those attending, should provide ample chance for exchange of ideas and information on these three areas of importance. At our last Executive meeting, held in Auckland in March, we spent some very valuable time with both MAF Ag. Quarantine Services, and the DSIR, discussing areas of mutual benefit and concern, from which further developments will follow at Conference.

In summary, as stated earlier, I feel that much has been achieved in the past year, to everyone's credit, but much more lies ahead to challenge us all. Major areas of concern include rising production costs, the threat of exotic diseases, dwindling pollen and nectar sources, and promotion and marketing of our products. The latter continues to create some conflict within the industry, as it has done for many years past. However, if we can continue to build upon the spirit of co-operation which has been evident during the introduction of our Industry Plan, then I hold high hopes that remaining problems can be tackled successfully, to mutual benefit. The realisation of those hopes lies entirely in our own hands.

Allen McCaw
May 1985



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APICULTURAL ABSTRACT

For anyone who wants to know what is being published about bees and apiculture then *Apicultural Abstracts* is a good read.

For example volume 35 (1984) reported 1355 publications, of which 804 were with abstracts, 265 with an informative note and 286 with title only. *Apicultural Abstracts* covers a wide range of subjects: for instance, issue Volume 35 no. 4, 1984 contained abstracts on: floral fragrances, pigments and colours; foraging by wild bees in an old field; buzz pollination; the large bee pollination system in the dry forests of Costa Rica; orchids which deceive bumble bees; water-lilies which trap stingless bees; mimicry and the difference between red-winged blackbirds and grackles; left- and right-handed bumble bees; Australian bees with mouth-parts like a drinking straw; yellow rain; what happens when a honeybee colony is fed with uranium; how feeding syrup to bees can kill cattle; protein extraction from spent honeybees; how dried fruit moths might affect lucerne seed yields.

Apicultural Abstracts created by Dr. Eva Crane and now under the Editorship of David Lowe, is a refined and elegant example of bibliographical apparatus, a tool that permits the enquirer to seek out and locate the information needed. *Apicultural Abstracts* is part of the information service available from International Bee Research Association and it aims to give a complete survey of research and technical developments concerning all bees, and beekeeping, throughout the world. It covers all aspects of honeybees (the 4 *Apis* species).

Items concerning other bees, especially their social behaviour and foraging and pollinating activities, are also included; various zoological, entomological and botanical aspects are mentioned if relevant. *Apicultural Abstracts* is published quarterly via the computerised production system of the UK based Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux; a fifth issue contains the subject and author indexes to the volume.

Readers of *Apicultural Abstracts* can also check back over the last 33 years by using the cumulative indexes. The years 1950 to 1972 are covered by a two-volume book but thereafter the indexes have been produced on microfiches. These can be used with any microfiche reader having a magnification of x 48 or more. The system used in preparing the material is computer output microfilm (COM) which makes it possible for each fiche to contain 270 frames. For "AA" the author and subject indexes occupy 14 and 24 fiches each, and a list of subject entries in Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) order on 1 fiche, making 40 per set. Each fiche includes its own index to the items on it, allowing rapid location of the entries sought. The fiche entries are much more detailed than those in the 1950-1972 printed indexes; each has a full English title, complete bibliographical details, and the entire string of UDC numbers which constitute the first line of each entry in *Apicultural Abstracts*.

The computer tape from which the COM fiches are produced is maintained at the University of Guelph, Canada, through the much valued cooperation of Professor Gard Otis and his staff. The entries are being transferred to Guelph tape from a magnetic tape supplied by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB).

The full range of subject descriptors used in AA is incorporated in EASI 5 (*English Alphabetical Subject Index to UDC numbers used by IBRA in AA and in Subject Indexes*). Its 168 pages contain 8750 entries; EASI 5 is the latest edition of this publication which commenced with EASI 1 in 1968. To use it really effectively a complete run of the journal is needed.

Most of the larger public libraries have sets, so anyone living in a metropolitan area should be able to locate copies in their city. In New Zealand the following Libraries receive *Apicultural Abstracts* either direct from IBRA or through the CAB distribution scheme:

Auckland Central Library, Box 4138, Auckland1,
Dunedin Public Library, PO Box 5542, Dunedin,
Massey University of Manawatu, Palmerston North,
George Forbes Memorial Library, Lincoln College,
Christchurch.

The journal costs £72 (for the 1985 volume) but is reduced to Members of the Association to £41.50, and back issues are reduced to under £20 per volume. A specimen copy will be sent without charge from IBRA, Hill House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 0NR, or through Mr T.G. Bryant, *Apicultural Advisory Officer*, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Private Bag, Tauranga, and Mr A.G. Matheson, *Apicultural Advisory Officer*, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Hardy Mall, Kerr Street, Private Bag, Nelson, who have copies at their offices.

Karl Showler

BYTES AND STINGS (Cont.)

During his own time, he has been using the machine to help produce a newsletter for the Bay of Plenty Branch and also for the Kiwifruit Pollination Association. Maintaining membership lists and getting the newsletters ready for mailing have been made a simple operation now.

"Another job that I have started to use the computer for in my own time is in compiling a data base around the articles and books that I have in my files. They are getting to the 'difficult to manage stage', and I find it very frustrating when I want to find a particular bit of information that I know I have *somewhere* but I can't remember where I have filed it.

"I'm setting up a system so I can lay my hands on any articles that have to do with, say, queen rearing. If the list is too long, I can then narrow it down by listing only those that deal with preparation of starter hives. Though its a lot of work initially, I hope to be able to have a valuable resource to use in the future.

"Another use of the computer may come in the record-keeping involved in setting up a selective breeding programme. I understand that quite a lot of work has already been done on the South Island by some beekeepers there. Here in the Bay of Plenty, a group is just getting organised, and the computer can easily do the "paperwork" and analytical aspects needed."

It's going to be very interesting to see how this linking of beekeepers, education, and computers will develop. We all hear so much about the computer age and wonder how it is going to effect us. Though there is no likelihood of a box with flashing lights being able to stop a hive from swarming, all beekeepers must surely feel a bit of pride in seeing our industry with the "state of the art" in educational opportunities.

Timing Unit For Semi-Radial and Tangential Extractors

If you don't own a tangential or semi-radial extractor don't read on. If you do, here's how to get an extra pair of hands at the extractor.

Much time is wasted in honey houses standing over the extractor, reversing, and braking. Now the "chip" has entered beekeeping.

Murray Bennie, a semi-retired commercial beekeeper of Ranfurly, Central Otago, has devised an automatic unit for controlling extractors.

The unit is attached to the extractor, and operates it by reversing and braking at pre-determined times. These time parameters can be worked out from previous experience, and the unit programmed for each different honey type.

The unit consists of these parts:

1. The timing unit
2. Mounting gear, pulleys, and belt
3. A one hp A/C electric motor with an internal brake, which comes in both a single and a three-phase model, and can be bought separately if desired.

The timing unit, tucked into a clear plastic box, makes cleaning easy and protects vulnerable parts. Clever design means that each time mode has its own circuit board which clips into the mother board, allowing for

quick and easy replacement. Another bonus is that the unit is self-diagnosing and therefore will automatically brake if something goes wrong.

The unit has five modes for operation. Any of them can be omitted simply by setting the time for that phase to zero.

- Forward 0-2.5 minutes, braking 0-15 seconds
- Reverse 0-2.5 minutes, braking 0-15 seconds
- Forward 0-2.5 minutes, braking 0-15 seconds
- Reverse 0-2.5 minutes, braking 0-15 seconds
- Forward 0-2.5 minutes, braking 0-15 seconds
- Release (i.e., spins freely by hand).

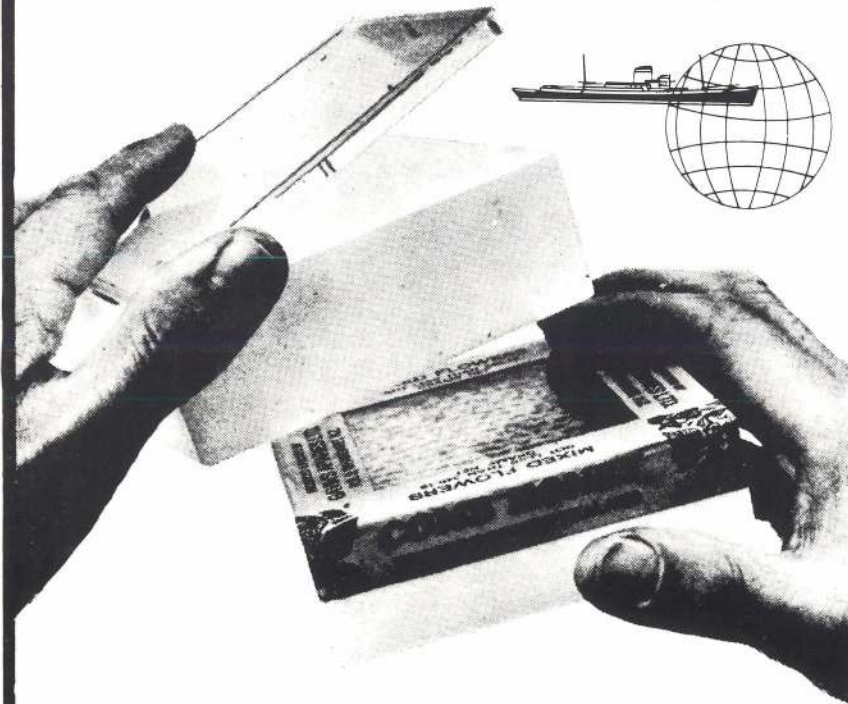
The various ranges shown for each mode are made by internal adjustment within the timing unit. This allows runs of different lengths depending on the honey to be extracted. For example, a light clover honey could bypass two modes, and run a short forward mode, a reverse mode, and a finishing forward mode. With a manuka honey all 5 modes could be used.

Beekeepers already using the unit have halved their extraction times to, for example, three minutes for clover honey.

A neat touch is the LED display indicating which mode the extractor is working in. This shows whether you're uncapping too fast, depending on the number of frames already uncapped.

The greatest advantage of this unit is not its ability to extract over morning-tea time but the fact that it releases some of the dead time wasted manning an extractor — once the extractor is loaded the timing unit does the extracting.

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LIBRARY NOTES

JOHN HEINEMAN

Some more of our funds have been spent to buy a very valuable book: valuable in dollars as well as contents. **QUEEN REARING** edited under the supervision of Prof. Dr. F. Ruttner, and under the direction of Prof. Dr. Eng. V. Harnau and published by Apimondia in 1983, 358 p.p.

This book is the first of a number of monographs on apiculture to be published by Apimondia for both practical beekeeper and research worker alike. Prof. Ruttner and his team have indeed created an outstanding book.

The text is clear, illustrated with good B/W photos and diagrams. The HOW and WHY of the different rearing methods regarded as efficient in current practice are fully discussed and explained. One gets the impression that the authors have eliminated many previous prejudicial opinions from which so much of our beekeeping literature suffers. Browsing through the pages it is clear that nothing is based on "say so". All the statements are based on thorough research, tested and retested.

Browsing through the pages one finds that our corner of the world is well represented.

What an enormous effort and expertise has been involved in compiling this book. All respect to Dr. Crane and her team. It is IBRA's intention to compile Satellite Directories when further data come to hand.

INDOOR WINTERING OF HIVES by D.M. McCutcheon, 19p., 1984, Can. This is IBRA reprint M 113. Interesting to read but of course of practical value to our colleagues in parts of Canada.

PAPERS:

Doreen and Cameron Jay: **SOME OBSERVATIONS OF HONEY BEES IN KIWIFRUIT ORCHARDS.** 1984, 2p. NZ.

P.G. Clinch. **KIWIFRUIT POLLINATION BY HONEY BEES.** 10p, 1984, NZ.

DONATION

We acknowledge with thanks a \$10 donation to the Library Fund by the Nelson Branch. The Nelson Secretary writes that it is the left over of a "fun and games" meeting.

REQUEST

It is a rule of the Library that those who borrow for the first time enclose \$3 with their first request. Please do so, it saves some hassle.

Also orders for a copy of the catalogue **together** with \$2.40 which includes postage.

Some borrowers are well over-due. Others are perhaps waiting for what you have laying about for long enough. Please do some soul-searching. Reminders cost postage and time. No good to you and me. Extension of time can always be arranged if no one else wants the same item.

Our library has a fair number of books about queen rearing but it would be very incomplete without this one. The subject is no doubt one of the most fascinating aspects of beekeeping and of great economical importance to the industry, so I would advise queen-breeders,

commercial beekeepers, and all those who don't make a living from bees but are utterly interested in the WHY and HOW of the Queen's Realm to sit up and take note.

Milestones in Bee-keeping and the SWARM TRIGGER DISCOVERED by A.E. McArthur, 1984, 83pp, Scotland.

Mailed by the author to our Editor and passed on to me. A commendable little book. Starting with some generalities and a few pages of beekeeping history it takes us via references to the more well known discoverers and inventors of our beekeeping world towards the points Mr. McArthur wants to make. Swarming urge, the reasons for it, and the kind of management he advocates to overcome the problems. It is all reasoned out very well, but there are some statements which leave me with a question mark. (page 26: "It is a well-documented fact that a colony of bees with an over-wintered queen will invariably raise queen cells and swarm in the following summer depending on the type of season ...". what then is the use of autumn requeening and wintering autumn tops? (page 40/41. Here we read: "where the weather pattern is settled and favourable to swarming over a sustained period during the time queen bees are beginning to fatigue, then virtually every colony making swarm preparations throughout the period spanning the upper and lower levels of endurance of the queens in the colonies concerned, will swarm etc, etc.")

Is it not the late spring and early summer of the years with changeable and unsettled weather which give us far more swarming problems than those with favourable weather?

I am really not sure whether Mr McArthur is entitled to take credit for being the discoverer of the facts he writes about. Many of us do requeen our colonies systematically. The reasons for that are well known and the facts well substantiated by research into the variety of factors related to swarming. It would probably be more correct to say that he has re-discovered the matter.

Taking into account that Scottish beekeeping may take place under somewhat different conditions from beekeeping in this country, management will be somewhat different as a consequence. But then these silly Kiwis are walking up-side-down anyway!

In the back of the book is a list of points to ponder for better bee-keeping. A lot of common sense and well worth taking notice of. As a matter of interest, Mr McArthur, besides being a practical beekeeper, also advertises for sale, among several hive products, "McArthur's Hangover Cure". Could be good to have some on hand at the forthcoming Conference at Greymouth!

DIRECTORY OF IMPORTANT WORLD HONEY SOURCES by Eva Crane, Penelope Walker, and Rosemary Day. Published by IBRA, 384 pages, 1984, UK.

A very special new reference not only for honey producers, but also for traders, research workers, nutritionists, horticulture, and agriculture scientists and so on. It is a world-wide coverage of some 450 honey-producing plants and some honey-dew producing plants. Details include economic uses of the plant, flowering period, honey flow, pollen production, chemical composition of the honey, and its physical properties such as colour, flavour, and granulation. The book also includes a bibliography of 820 references and three indexes of synonyms of plant names, insects producing honey dew, and 1350 common names of plants.

Classified Advertisements

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150 three-storey hives in good order on excellent sites around Morrinsville. Will sell separately, with or without sites. Wholesale buyers of packed honey keen to continue arrangement. As well 100 cut comb supers and 100 queen excluders in good order. Hans Zuur. Tel. KIWITAHI 831.



REMINDER

The Association has for sale copies of "Story of Bees and Honey" at the ridiculous price of 20 cents each. "Nectar and Pollen Sources" by R. J. Walsh is also available at \$2.50 per copy (\$2.00 to members), AND don't forget the association has stocks of Andrew Matheson's "Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand". Be in.

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Regularly publishing new information on bees, beekeeping and hive products, for beekeepers and scientists all over the world. IBRA Representative for New Zealand: T. G. Bryant, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Private Bag, Tauranga. Catalogues of publications and details of journals and membership \$0.55; specimen copy of journals: *Bee World* \$1.10. *Journal of Apicultural Research* \$1.10. *Apicultural Abstracts* \$1.55. INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, Hill House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 0NR, England.

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Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand

A guide to bee forage plants. An updated version of a text first prepared by R. S. Walsh in 1967.

This 1978 edition lists source plants in chapters according to the seasons in which they bear nectar or pollen. Additional chapters are also included on the flight range of bees, the function of the flower and district planting notes (originally prepared by the NBA).

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Magazine of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, International in appeal, Scottish in character. Memberships terms from: D. B. N. Blair, 44 Dalhousie Road, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire PA10 2AT, Scotland. Sample copy on request. Cost 30p or equivalent.

SCOTTISH BEE JOURNAL

Packed with practical beekeeping. \$4.80 a year from the Editor, Robert N. H. Skilling, F.R.S.A., F.S.C.T. 34 Rennie Street, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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